John Reich Journal

Volume 10 / Issue 1 January 1996

JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues $15.00

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The **John Reich Journal** is the offical publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1806 Draped Bust Half Dollar (Newly Designated O128). Obverse die is 1806 Obv-11. Reverse die is 1806 Rev-L. This variety is a marriage of two previously known dies from 1806, discovered by a Midwest collector and confirmed by Larry Briggs. Photos courtesy of Bill Fivaz.

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Editors' Comments

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome to the first issue of the **John Reich Journal** for 1996. The FUN show has come and gone with one BIG SURPRISE. Larry Briggs announced the confirmation of a new DM for the Draped Bust Half Dollar series. The new marriage is 1806 Obverse 11 mated with Reverse L which will now be referred to as O128. The confirmation came just before the Orlando convention and Larry had photos at his table for inspection by interested parties. He has provided us with the photos which has become the cover plates for Volume 10 of the **JRJ**. The coin, unfortunately, is not currently for sale.

This, as you can see, is Volume 10, Issue 1. As we stated in our debut edition, Volume 6, Issue 2 (April, 1992), we were going to strive for a quarterly publication as long as the articles kept coming. Due to an article dry spell, and of course our own tardiness, we decided to begin the new year with a new volume. We hope to cure both problems in the near future. We need your help to continue publishing our award winning journal.

Speaking of awards, JRCS was the proud recipient of the second place award in the annual ANA publication competition. Our thanks go out to the authors of the articles published in Volume 9 that made receiving this award possible.

Continuing with awards, please note the ballot for the Jules Reiver Literary Award included with this journal. We would appreciate your taking the time to vote for your favorite articles for Volume 9. The presentation will be made at the next annual meeting in Denver this August. Ballots must be received by April 1, 1996 so the results may be published in the next **JRJ**.

We have also included the return envelope for your dues check. Please send your renewal for 1996 as soon as possible with your membership number noted on your check. Your number is located on your mailing label should you need a reminder. Consider sending your ballot for best article with your dues in order to save on postage.

There were some wonderful finds made by JRCS members lately that merely involved looking closer than normal at coins. One member uncovered a double struck early bust dime and another a flipover double struck bust half. Both were purchased as type coins by our eagle eye friends. Congratulations on your new discoveries! These are two examples to teach us all to look more carefully at our, and other people's, coins.

The much awaited new half dime census is included in this issue. Russ has done his usual masterful job in preparing it for our consumption. You will note some changes have been made to the rarity ratings for some of the varieties. Many of the high rarities have come down with the discovery of new pieces. We would like to thank all the members who took the time to submit their holdings for inclusion in the census. Everyone's efforts are needed to produce a meaningful census for determining the current rarities of the bust coins.

We would also like to note that the corrected article by Chris Pilliod will also be found in this issue. We inadvertently published a working copy of the article in a previous journal and have now got the corrected article to rectify our mistake. Please forgive us for any inconvenience this has caused you. Chris has done a wonderful job of research and deserves our gratitude for a job well done.

We would like to stress again that we need articles for publication.
We currently have about 10-15 pages of material on hand for the next issue. There are about another 30 pages that need to be filled for the upcoming issue as well as the for issues after that. If you are working on something we will be happy to consider it for inclusion in a future issue. We would like to receive it on disk if possible, but will accept anything from typed to hand written. Questions, articles, or research projects are welcomed for publication.

Thank you all for your continued support and membership in our society.
We hope to get the journal back on schedule this year with your help.
Remember to renew your membership with the enclosed envelope.
Now enjoy the latest works of the membership.

Bradley S. Karoleff / Keith G. Bellman

Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

Dear JRCS,

I have been meaning to write a letter to the editors for quite some time now. I have been a JRCS member almost 2 years. I just wish that I would have discovered the early coins of America when I started collecting in 1987. Like a number of others, I was swept up by 'Slab-mania'. I guess at the time, I was pretty uneducated and believed everything that I read about very common coins that dealers touted as rare. Oh, if only that 1885 silver dollar would go up to $5000.00 like I remember several dealers saying they would. Oh well, you live and learn, and really, I am not bitter.

Then one day I was in Manhattan and I stopped into Stack's to see what certified Franklin Halves in MS-65 or MS-66 they had in stock. Funny, one of the largest coin dealers in America did not have any. The gentleman behind the counter was very nice and suggested I look at some early halves and he brought out a tray of Bust Halves in the 1820s. I remember saying to myself as I looked at a few coins, "man these are so much more beautiful than the 'rare' Franklins that I wanted!" The gentleman suggested I read about the coins and get to know about them and their history before I start spending money. I walked out of Stack's without a single coin, but I did buy the Overton Half Dollar reference and the Browning Quarter Dollar book. The man also gave me some auction catalogs to read. I decided that I was going to start collecting the early quarter dollars of the U.S. I chose the quarters over the halves because it seemed more probable that I would be able to collect all the varieties, being there are 'only' 93 (minus the 1827s). I may even go after the different die states just so I can see how a certain die 'aged'.

How fascinating these early coins of America are compared to later coins. I have since been buying old auction catalogs that had a good representation of early quarters and never can get enough information to read.

I can not tell you enough how great JRCS is, which is why I wanted to write in the first place. Every **JR Journal** holds so much new information on our early coins. Even though I collect only quarters, I read and enjoy every article. Each article is so informative and rich in knowledge. I am always in awe at the knowledge each author shows in their articles.

Volume 9, Issue 2 (January, 1995) is a classic. Arno Safran's article on Bust Dollar varieties was great. Beginning collectors should read what Mr. Safran wrote and they would have a good idea of how an original, undamaged early coin should look like.

Then there is the story written by Wayne Aubel. I really enjoy reading of another collector's experiences. I can not explain how good I felt while reading how he cherried the 1831 O120 for a measly $30. That has to be one of the greatest feelings when you are able to acquire a variety so rare for so little, because you are a true collector with knowledge of the coins. I can not help but feel sorry for all the people who spent $200 plus for the 'rare' 1995 double die cent. 1 know what coin I would rather own! The 1831 O120 . . . no question!

As I began this letter, it is too bad 1 did not discover 'classic numismatics' sooner, because 1 would have a complete collection of the **JRJ**! Anyway, I am looking forward to many more great issues of the **JRJ** and will hopefully be able to get to an ANA convention and be able to meet some fellow JRCS members. I hope this letter was not too long . . . and keep up the great work.

George J. Polizio

CONGRATULATIONS

In the last **JR Journal**, there appeared two dateless off-center Bust Half Dollars with the challenge to the reader to identify their die marriages. This reminded me of my previous mystery question (**JRJ** Volume 5, Issue 3 [December, 1990]) in which where there was more than one correct solution - but only one answer. This time around there was still only one answer but there were two winners! I neglected to stipulate how the answers were to be submitted - I totally underestimated the allegiance and astuteness of our readership. When Steve Tompkins called me Sunday evening, October 22nd having correctly diagnosed the die marriages photographed in Figure V and Figure VI as 1825 O112 and 1829 O115 respectively . . . 1 told him that dinner would be waiting in Denver. Five days later I received a two page single spaced letter from Louis Scuderi dated October 22nd, giving a blow-by-blow account of the three days following the delivery of his **JR Journal**. Louis also submitted the correct answers and will be treated to dinner. Congratulations also to Flaz Bizzo, who also got the correct answers, but they were received just two days late for the dinner in Denver!

- Russell J. Logan

Die Settings on Flowing Hair and Draped Bust Half Dollars

Chris Pilliod

Some time ago Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion said, "There are three kinds of lies in life . . . there are little lies, there are big lies, and there are statistics." To a degree he is correct, but if properly used, statistics comprise one of the most powerful tools the numismatic researcher has available. It allows us to draw some brilliant deductions from a sometimes small amount of data. Since exact records of much of the minting processes are not available to us, we must make these kinds of deductions from the data. I would like to share some thoughts along these lines with you from a recent evening of research; by the end of which the following two points concerning early Bust Half coinage were made:

> First, some kind of hard collar, probably steel, existed around and quite close to the anvil die. An approximate distance would be measured, and it meant a gap of no more than 1.7 mm (1/16th of an inch maximum) existed between the collar and anvil die. My guess is that this is true of all early U.S. coinage with lettered edges.
>
> Second, at least for some of the coinage during the Flowing Hair and Draped Bust period, there is some evidence that the hammer or upper die may have been the reverse.

So you may ask, what good is knowing the hammer and anvil dies? Who cares about the collar? Well, first of all, knowledge of these is a very beneficial tool in determining authenticity of coins, particularly error coins. Secondly I would say, paraphrasing Sir Edmund Hillary, "because it's there to be discovered and we mountain-climbing numismatists are a very curious lot." Both of these subjects are a constant topic of feverish debate among numismatic scholars. Furthermore, it is well documented that for the production of Turban Bust Halves that the hammer die was exclusively the obverse. As a result any evidence to the contrary for the earlier Bust Halves is quite shocking.

Not long ago I attended a Midwest coin auction and had the pleasure of sitting next to an avid Bust Half collector. During an exceptionally lonely stretch of boring lots, I noticed his Overton book lying open on the table and began perusing it slowly. The bust series avails itself well to numismatic research as well as being involved with an historically interesting time period. And although I had always realized the manufacturing process of dies, striking presses, and blanks is very different in the Bust series than in later issues, up to this time bust

coinage as a whole seemed very enigmatic to me. The few high-grade errors that exist to readily study the series are expensive and the lettered edges on some of the denominations warranted a unique collar design. Furthermore, screw presses that were employed at this time, although seemingly simple in design, are still not fully understood.

But there is one thing that we can all go to the bank on - the laws of Physics that exist today are the same laws of Physics that the Mint had to cope with in the 18th and 19th Century. Realizing this, one particular item in Overton quickly caught my attention. It involves cuds. Although there is a noticeable dearth of cuds in the Turban section there is a conversely nice spattering of sizable ones in the pre-Turban halves. More important than this are the features that the cuds exhibit.

This is where statistics coupled with a simple understanding of Newtonian physics is needed. When a small piece of a die breaks loose, it can do only one of two things. It can remain with the die and strike a number of more coins as a retained cud, or it can fall away from the body of the die and form a full cud on the coins that are struck thereafter. Which one it does depends largely on whether it is in the hammer or in the anvil die. The reason for this is that a broken piece of die can better survive if it is in the anvil die surrounded closely by a rigid collar. Conversely, if a piece breaks from the hammer die, it is apt to immediately succumb to gravity and fall out.

NOTE: It is important to know when a piece of the die has broken loose. A portion of the die is broken when there is a clear delineation or break in the pattern of the dentils at two different points of the rim. The close-up photo of an 1806/5 O104b shows this well. Note that in this example the die break causes a jog in the pattern of the dentils at two locations, one at 3:00 and the other at 5:30. This piece has broken from the die. If the piece remains in the die, as this one has, a retained portion of its image will continue to be evident, but the broken piece will become less visible as it wears down into the die; in fact, late die state retained cuds may only exhibit the dentils. Regardless, all of these are known as retained cuds. When a coin is struck from a die that is lacking a piece it is known as a full cud. Full cuds will show no signs of any feature, not even the dentils.

Two series I have studied much more arduously than Bust coinage are the Flying Eagle and Indian cents. During Flying Eagle cent production in 1857 and 1858, the Mint had the reverse die in the hammer position, and the obverse die, bearing the eagle, in the anvil position, surrounded tightly by a metal collar. With the unveiling of the Indian cent in 1859 the die positions were switched. The obverse die showing the Indian was up in the hammer while the reverse die remained in the anvil. Why was this done? No one knows for sure. And how do we know this?

The most confident manner to determine die settings for a series is to find a partial-collared strike. In some series they are abundant, in others they are virtually nonexistent. The edge showing the spread will always be adjacent to the hammer side as the anvil die sits down in a collar where no outward metal flow is possible. If the partial-collared coin has a reeded edge the side adjacent to the reeding will be the anvil die. Off-centered and double struck coins will also sometimes show collar marks and give away die setting positions. Another less reliable method is to use coins showing severely misaligned die strikes or clashes. Generally the misaligned side will be the hammer die, but this method is only recommend as additional proof.

So where are most full cuds seen? Sure enough, most full cuds seen on Flying Eagles are on the reverse (the hammer die), and on the Indian Cent Series, they are percentage-wise much more frequent on the obverse(again the hammer die). The reverse on Indian cents often have very deep die breaks that most collectors call cuds, but in fact they are still retained as evidence of the dentils still exist. This can be revealed most readily by whether the dentils still show. Statistically there is a large and significant difference in population between the number of retained cuds versus the number of full cuds seen on the hammer and anvil die of each series. Following is a list of die cuds as shown in the Overton book for the Flowing Hair and Draped Bust series:

1794	O104a	Reverse cud. Not photographed in Overton. Not known whether retained or full.
1795	O103a	Reverse cud. Plate coin too low of a grade to identify, appears to be full.
1805/4	O103a	Obverse retained. (see photo in this article)
1805	O104a	Obverse retained? (see photo and comments)
1805	O105	Reverse full.
1805	O112a	Reverse. Not shown in Overton. Not known whether full or retained.
1806/9	O111	Pointed 6. Two cuds on reverse, seen as retained but more often full. This die state not shown in Overton.
1806/5	O104b	Knob 6. Obverse retained, with two full reverse cuds which are seldom seen as retained. (see photos in this article)
1806/5	O101a	Full reverse cud at ITE of UNITED. Not shown in Overton.
1806	O108	reverse cud at UNITED. No stem through claw. Excessively rare. Not known if retained or full.

I have reviewed available data from the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent series and have compiled the chart shown. The above data for Bust Halves appears on the same chart. However, as we do not know which dies were the hammer and anvil I have listed the cuds in the table only as obverse and reverse. The personality that this distribution takes on will guide us in determining the hammer and anvil die settings.

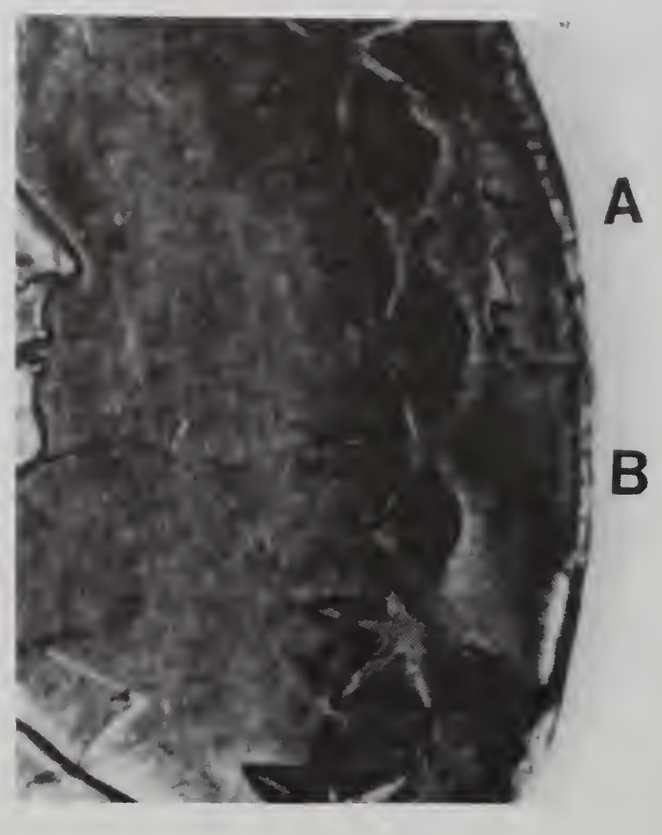
FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT CUD IDENTIFICATION

	Total Cuds Observed	Full Cuds	Retained Cuds
Hammer Die	45	44	1
Anvil Die	133	41	92

FLOWING HAIR AND DRAPED BUST CUD IDENTIFICATION

	Total Cuds Observed	Full Cuds	Retained Cuds
Obverse Die	3	0	3
Reverse Die	10	7	3

As can be seen, die breaks in the hammer die just do not linger long to strike many coins. Of all cuds I reviewed in the hammer die, just one of 45 were retained. Conversely, well over half of the cuds seen on the anvil die were retained. If this distribution has been properly attributed then the populations, although small, appear most similar to a known population that has the reverse die in the hammer location, and the obverse in the anvil seat. Further discussion of some of these Bust Halves is in order.



By far the most intriguing of these listed die cuds is from the 1805 O104a. This coin exhibits a large die break on the obverse at 3:00. The plate coin is a spectacular example and shows this massive break in the die well. I have not physically had the opportunity to study the 1805 O104a but Don Parsley did graciously forward me the plate photograph for evaluation. I made a close-up print of the area in question. This break actually has two distinct regions, marked 'A' and 'B' on the photo. Area 'A' is unquestionably retained as portions of the star can be seen. The marvel about Area 'B' is that upon close examination the cud appears to show signs of dentils on the rim within the cud, in the form of light ridges. This would mean it is retained as well. If so, it must also mean that this die was set in the anvil position with some type of sturdy collar around it to enable the piece from completely falling away. This broken piece could not possibly have survived in the hammer position.

Photographic evidence of two other varieties augments this theory. The next photo shows an 1805/4 O103b. It grades a Choice VF and represents a very late die state, a later die state than what shows on the Overton plate coin. Note the diagonal die crack on the obverse shows sharply and clearly in this example. The diagnostic triangular die break shows well also. The key to the discussion is that the triangular piece is still retained despite showing evidence of being broken and wearing a recess into the die. Outlines of a clearly visible star one and two is evidence that the piece is still retained. Had this die been positioned in the hammer it also likely would have fallen out.

Additionally a second example is shown, this being an 1806/5 O104b. This piece is an EF-40 and is similar in die state as the plate coin, perhaps slightly later. This is an unusual variety in that it has die breaks on both the obverse and reverse. There are two full cuds on the reverse and a large die break on the obverse. The obverse die break shows delineation of the dentils thus meaning it has broken from the main die and rested in position surrounded by the collar. These same die breaks are also seen as retained but more often full.

A close-up of the obverse shows the break clearly. Measurement of the star points verifies that the broken piece has distended from the die a small amount. As the die break is retained, this means the collar is no further away from the anvil die than the widest thickness of the broken piece. Otherwise the piece would fall between the collar and the anvil die. Actual measurement of this distance was determined to be 1.7 mm or approximately 1/16th of an inch. This is the maximum total linear distance the collar is from the planchlet - my guess is the collar was even closer than this.

COUNTERPOINTS AND SUMMARY

It must be mentioned that examination of several error coins from this series show the opposite of this theory, in that the obverse was the hammer die. These errors include two off-center pieces as well as a full brockage coin showing an obverse brockage. At least in this century, the Mint has been very protective of allowing a die to fit only in its respective hammer or anvil position, and not interchangeably.

It may be possible that during the Mint's infancy the hammer and anvil dies were used interchangeably, for whatever reason, but I personally struggle with this concept as the Mint must surely have been extremely nervous of the possibility of a coin being struck with either two reverses or two obverses, even 200 years ago.

Other arguments may be made. In the 200+ years of U.S. coinage, the Mint has certainly been more preferential in using the obverse as the hammer die rather than the reverse - but more so in the 20th Century than prior. Half Cents of the same time period as the Flowing Hair and Draped Bust Halves were struck with the reverse in the hammer position. It is well within the realm of possibility that the early Bust Half hammer/anvil alignment was changed, such as it was with the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent changeover. A possible cut-off year may have been 1806, possibly when the Mint switched from the knobbed 6 to the pointed 6.

It is also possible that what I am calling retained cuds are actually broken 'stems' of the die that are attached at a point further into the die. Additionally, other well researched scholars have opined that a dog-collar or contemporary 'hose clamp' was 'snugged' around the die after a piece was broken to hold it in place.

All arguments pro and con are complicated by the fact that the collar was separated by the anvil die by an open annulus, and that small pieces of the aforementioned, approximate size or less, were easily capable of falling away even if they were in the anvil position. Perhaps this study should be repeated on only the larger die breaks capable of being retained by an annulated collar.

Regardless, it is fair to say that more research is needed in this field. There is no doubt in my mind that a definitive answer will be made in time. Higher grade bust coins with cuds or bust error coinage would help immensely. If anyone has a cud or an error on an early Bust Half, Flying Eagle or Indian Cent that would enhance or detract from this theory, I would appreciate the opportunity to examine it. If someone has access to the Overton coins or plate photos this would be beneficial as well. I may be reached at: P.O. Box 12722, Fort Wayne, IN 46864.

The author would like to express extreme gratitude to Michael Summers for his insights and the opportunity of photographing several of the coins used in this article; and also to Dave Finkelstein and Henry Hilgard for editing the piece.

Messengers From the Past

Philip J. Evans

A recent issue of **The Numismatist** had an excellent article by Q. David Bowers. It was on *Connoisseurship and Coin Collecting*. In it, he paraphrased a statement made by a French geochemist on meteorites, and turned it into one of the most apt descriptions that I have ever heard on why many of us find coins fascinating.

> "As we find it impossible to revisit the past, coins come to us, as true messengers from years ago."

I think that this one concise sentence embodies a great part of the appeal of studying, and collecting, the products of the U.S. Mint from its inception until the advent of the steam powered minting presses in 1836. That is when the Mint began to produce what I have heard our **JRJ** editors refer to as 'cookie cutter coins', which also has some truth in it!

I most certainly have nothing against the collecting of Bust Halves in Uncirculated condition. I wish I owned some in that condition, but there can be no denying the tingle of appreciation one can get from holding in your hand a nice circulated half. I often wonder through whose hands it has passed, and in whose change purse it may have resided for a time. I also wonder about the world as it was in the time of the Capped Bust Half.

As an aid to this wondering, I have done some research and created the following 'Time Line' for Early U.S. Coins. You will note that I have structured it around who was President of the United States for each year from 1792 through 1836. The items I have listed are nearly all non-numismatic. If you are reading the **JRJ** you should already be familiar with numismatic landmarks! You will also note that I have something of a penchant for items having to do with classical music. I would have been glad to give equal time to popular contemporary music, but could find no sources. The idea was, quite simply, to give us a feel for what was going on in any specific year. The next time you acquire an early Mint product, take a look at the items listed for its date and use your imagination for a moment. It may add to your enjoyment of the coin. I hope so. It works for me!

1792 George Washington was President. Kentucky became a state. Two political parties were formed in the U.S. - Republican, under Thomas Jefferson, and Federalist under Alexander Hamilton and John Adams. Philadelphia was still the capital, with the construction of Washington, D.C. underway. Illuminating gas was used in England for the first time. The world's first Chemical Society was founded in Philadelphia. English artist Joshua Reynolds died, and Beethoven was a pupil of Haydn in Vienna.

1793 George Washington, President. Construction began on the Capitol building in D.C. Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. U.S. law compelled escaped slaves to be returned to their masters. The 'reign of terror' began in France, and Louis XVI was executed.

1794 George Washington, President. The U.S. Navy was established. The so called 'Whisky Rebellion' took place in Pennsylvania. Thomas Paine wrote **The Age of Reason**. **Auld Lang Syne** was published, and slavery was abolished in French colonies.

1795 George Washington, President. The Treaty of San Lorenzo, with Spain, gave the U.S. the right to navigate the Mississippi. The hydraulic press was invented. The metric system was adopted in France. The English poet John Keats was born. Goya painted his famous **Duchess of Alba** portrait. Haydn completed his twelve London Symphonies.

1796 George Washington, President . . . but John Adams was elected to succeed him when Washington refused a third term. Scottish poet Robert Burns died. Jenner introduced the vaccination for smallpox. The population of China was 275 million.

1797 John Adams, President. The first copper pennies were minted in England, and the first one pound notes were issued. Composer Franz Schubert was born. England began the export of iron.

1798 John Adams, President. The Helvetian Republic (Switzerland) proclaimed in Bern. The Battle of the Pyramids made Napoleon master of Egypt. T.R. Malthus wrote his **Essay on the Principle of Population**. The Italian adventurer, Casanova, died.

1799 John Adams, President. George Washington died. The Rosetta stone is found. Beethoven wrote his **Symphony #1**. French novelist Balzac born. The Russian Czar grants the Russia-American Company a monopoly on trade rights in Alaska.

1800 John Adams, President. U.S. Federal offices moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. The population of the new Capitol city was 2,464 Free, 623 Slaves. Thomas Jefferson was elected to succeed John Adams. Eli Whitney made muskets with interchangeable parts. Paris had a population of 550,000, New York City, 60,000. Beethoven wrote his **Symphony #2**.

1801 Thomas Jefferson, President. American engineer Robert Fulton built the first successful submarine, in France. The Union Jack became the official flag of the United Kingdom. Nelson defeated the Danish fleet in the battle of Copenhagen.

1802 Thomas Jefferson, President. Victor Hugo born. Daniel Webster wrote **The Rights of Neutral Nations in Time of War**. John Dalton introduced the atomic theory into chemistry.

1803 Thomas Jefferson, President. Ohio became a state. The U.S. purchased the Louisiana Territory from France. Ralph Waldo Emerson was born. Robert Fulton propelled a boat with steam power. French composer Hector Berlioz born.

1804 Thomas Jefferson, President. Alexander Hamilton killed in a duel with Aaron Burr. Nathaniel Hawthorne born. Beethoven wrote **Symphony #3**. Thomas Jefferson re-elected President.

1805 Thomas Jefferson, President. Napoleon defeated Austro-Russian forces at Battle of Austerlitz. Violin virtuoso Pagannini tours Europe. Morphine isolated.

1806 Thomas Jefferson, President. The Burr plot to make the West a separate nation uncovered. Britain and Prussia at war with France. Population of Germany, 27 million. Beethoven wrote **Symphony #4** and **Violin Concerto**. Rossini wrote his first opera.

1807 Thomas Jefferson, President. Robert Fulton's paddle steamer Claremont navigated on the Hudson river. England prohibited the slave trade. Street lighting by gas in London. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow born. Guiseppe Garabaldi, Italian patriot, born.

1808 Thomas Jefferson, President. U.S. prohibits importation of slaves from Africa. Disappearance of fashion of pigtails in men's hair. Beethoven wrote **Symphony #5** and **Symphony #6**. James Madison elected to succeed Jefferson as President.

1809 James Madison, President. Abraham Lincoln born. Edgar Allan Poe born. Alfred Lord Tennyson born. Washington Irving wrote **Rip Van Winkle**. Charles Darwin born. Felix Mendelssohn born. Napoleon divorced Josephine.

1810 James Madison, President. The year of Napoleon's zenith. U.S. population, 7,239,881. P.T. Barnum born. F. Chopin born. Krupp works opened in Germany.

1811 James Madison, President. George III of England became insane thus his son became sovereign de facto. William Henry Harrison, future 9th President, defeated Indians (Native Americans) at the battle of Tippecanoe. Harriet Beecher Stowe born. Franz Liszt born. Luddites destroyed industrial machinery in northern England.

1812 James Madison, President. Napoleon invaded Russia and only 20,000 of his army of 550,000 survived. U.S. declared war on England. Louisiana became a state. Grimm's Fairy Tales published. Charles Dickens born. Robert Browning born. Beethoven wrote **Symphony #7** and **Symphony #8**. James Madison re-elected President of U.S.

1813 James Madison, President. Virtually all the nations of Europe were involved in the Napoleonic war with France. U.S. also embroiled in war against England. The British took Fort Niagra and burned Buffalo. Mexico declared its independence. Jane Austen wrote **Pride and Prejudice**. The Methodist Missionary Society was formed. Richard Wagner (composer) born in Germany. The waltz swept European ballrooms, and the last gold Guineas were minted in England.

1814 James Madison, President. Allied forces defeated Napoleon's armies, he abdicates and is banished to Elba. British forces burned Washington D.C., and the treaty of Ghent ended the British-American war on Dec. 24. Francis Scott Key wrote **Defense of Fort Mc Henry**, which eventually became the words of our national anthem. The London Times began being printed by steam powered presses.

1815 James Madison, President. Americans defeated British at Battle of New Orleans before word that the war had ended. Napoleon left Elba, landed in France and his army was defeated by Wellington at Waterloo. Brazil declared its independence. J. Macadam constructed a road of crushed stone in Britain.

1816 James Madison, President. Indiana became a state. Argentina declared its independence. Charlotte Bronte born. Rossini wrote **The Barber of Seville**. Laennec invented the stethoscope. An English economic crisis caused large scale emigration to the U.S. James Monroe elected President to succeed James Madison . . . and no half dollars with this date on them were minted (that we know of!).

1817 James Monroe, President. Mississippi became a state. Henry David Thoreau born. Construction of the Erie Canal begun. Waterloo bridge opened in London.

1818 James Monroe, President. Illinois became a state. The border between the U.S. and Canada was established. Karl Marx was born. Austen, Byron, Keats, Scott and Turgenev all writing, and Mary Shelley wrote **Frankenstein**. First professional horse racing in U.S. The first steamship, the **Savannah**, crossed the Atlantic in 26 days.

1819 James Monroe, President. Alabama became a state. Florida purchased by the U.S. from Spain. Future Queen Victoria born. Walt Whitman born. A maximum twelve hour working day for juveniles mandated in England.

1820 James Monroe, President. The Missouri Compromise enacted—Maine admitted as a free state and Missouri as a slave state. George III died in England. U.S. land law fixed land price at a minimum of $1.25 per acre. Florence Nightingale born. Statue of Venus de Milo found. James Monroe re-elected President of U.S.

1821 James Monroe, President. Napoleon died on St. Helena. James Fenimore Cooper published **The Spy**. The population of the U.S. was 9.6 million, France 30.4 million, Great Britain 20.8 million, Italy 18.0 million, Germany 26.0 million and Austria 12.0 million. Simon Bolivar defeated a Spanish army ensuring the independence of Venezuela. Peru, Guatemala, Panama and Santo Domingo all proclaimed their independence.

1822 James Monroe, President. Hiram Ulysses Grant (Ulysses S. Grant), future 18th President, was born. Gregor Mendel and Louis Pasteur born. Turkey invaded Greece. World's first iron railroad bridge built. Franz Liszt made his debut as a pianist, and Franz Schubert wrote his **Symphony #8**. The streets of Boston were illuminated by gas. The Sunday Times of London was founded.

1823 James Monroe, President. The Monroe doctrine was proclaimed closing the American continent to settlement by European powers. Mexico became a republic. Charles Babbage attempted to build a calculating machine - first attempt at a computer. British medical journal, **The Lancet**, first issued.

1824 James Monroe, President. Beethoven wrote his **Symphony #9**. The Erie Canal was completed. Portland cement developed. British workers were allowed to unionize. SPCA founded in London. U.S. House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams as President when none of the four candidates won a majority in the national election.

1825 John Quincy Adams, President. A baseball club was organized in Rochester, New York. Johann Strauss, to become 'the waltz king', was born. The Stockton-Darlington railroad opened, the first to carry passengers. Faraday succeeded in isolating benzene.

1826 John Quincy Adams, President. Thomas Jefferson died. James Fenimore Cooper wrote **The Last of the Mohicans**. U.S. Academy of Design founded. Mendelssohn, composer, wrote **Overture to Midsummer Night's Dream**. University of Munich founded. Unter der Linden (Berlin) lit by gas lamps.

1827 John Quincy Adams, President. English artist and poet, William Blake, died. J.J. Audubon published **Birds of North America**. Joseph Lister, English surgeon, born. Sulfur friction matches introduced. Ludwig Van Beethoven died. Karl Baedeker began publishing his travel guides. Forty-nine (?) varieties of Capped Bust Halves minted in Philadelphia. A record . . . but nobody was counting!

1828 John Quincy Adams, President. Duke of Wellington became Prime Minister of England. "Tariff of Abominations" was passed by U.S. Congress, curtailing imports. Jules Verne born. **American Dictionary of the English Language** published by Noah Webster. Construction began on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad - first railroad built in U.S. for carrying passengers and freight. Composer Franz Schubert died. Andrew Jackson elected President, defeating John Quincy Adams bid for re-election.

1829 Andrew Jackson, President. Slavery abolished in Mexico. John Jay, first Chief Justice of the Supreme court, died. First U.S. patent for a typewriter granted. Chopin debuted as a pianist in Vienna. L. Daguerre formed a partnership for the development of photographic inventions. A centralized Metropolitan Police Force was installed in London. James Smithson bequeathed 100,000 pounds to found the Smithsonian Institution.

1830 Andrew Jackson, President. Chester A. Arthur, future 21st President, was born. In a debate with Robert Hayne, Daniel Webster negated State's Rights doctrine. Emily Dickinson, American poet, born. The religious society of Mormons or Latterday Saints was founded by Joseph Smith. Patent granted for steel pen point. Belva Lockwood became the first woman to practice law before the Supreme Court of the U.S. Stiff collars part of a gentleman's dress. London had 26 'steam cars'.

1831 Andrew Jackson, President. Virginia slave revolt led by Nat Turner. James Monroe, 5th President of U.S., died. James Garfield, future 20th President, was born. Chloroform invented. Charles Darwin sailed on the HMS Beagle, as a naturalist. Faraday demonstrated electromagnetic induction. William Garrison published **The Liberator**. The first horse drawn buses used in New York City. Population of Great Britain 13.9 million. Population of the U.S. 12.8 million.

1832 Andrew Jackson, President. The word 'socialism' came into use. Louisa M. Alcott, Horatio Alger and Lewis Carroll born. Sir Walter Scott died. Charles Carroll, last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence died. Hector Berlioz composed his **Symphonie Fantastique**. Andrew Jackson re-elected President, defeating Henry Clay.

1833 Andrew Jackson, President. Beginnings of the Whig political party in the U.S. President Jackson moved against the Bank of the U.S. Benjamin Harrison, future 23rd President, was born. Davy Crockett's autobiography was a best-seller. Johannes Brahms and Alfred Nobel born. Slavery was abolished in the British Empire.

1834 Andrew Jackson, President. Abraham Lincoln, at age 25, entered politics and was elected to the Illinois legislature. Victor Hugo wrote **Hunchback of Notre Dame**. Artists Degas and Whistler born. Cyrus McCormack patented the reaping machine. Samuel Taylor Coleridge died.

1835 Andrew Jackson, President. Texas declared its right to secede from Mexico. Hans Christian Andersen published the first of his tales for children. Mark Twain born. William Wordswoth's **Poems** was a best seller. Camille Saint-Saens born. Halley's comet re-appears. P.T. Barnum begins his career in show business. Samuel Colt took out his first firearms patents. 1098 miles of railroad in use in the U.S. Andrew Carnegie born. Charles Chubb patented a burglar proof safe.

1836 Andrew Jackson, President. Davy Crockett killed at Alamo. Texas won independence from Mexico. Arkansas became a state. James Madison and Aaron Burr died. Roger Taney became the 5th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Charles Dickens published **The Pickwick Papers**. Late in the year, Martin Van Buren won the presidential election, and our beloved Lettered Edge Capped Bust Half saw its final production!

There you have it early coinage fans. I'm sure that if you do some research you will find events in many years that you may find more significant than those I have selected. The above listing is sample of the times that gives us a better understanding of what was going on. Now just who do you think may have handled this 1832 half?

Condition Census - Bust Half Dimes 1794-1837

Russell J. Logan

This is the first half dime census to include both the Flowing Hair and Draped Bust series. This expanded format obviously displaces some Capped Bust collections, so we hope that the benefits will outweigh the inconveniences and not disappoint too many Capped Bust Half Dime enthusiasts. Hopefully this will lead to future half dime censuses which will focus solely on the early series.

For the Capped Bust enthusiast, one needs only to compare this census with the last one (released during the Orlando ANA in 1992 [**JRJ** Volume 6, Issue 1]) to understand the fervid activity in the collecting of Capped Bust Half Dimes. The best collection in the former census contained 87 of the 90 Capped Bust Half Dime die marriages; today there are seven collectors who have reported 87 or more capped bust die marriages! Please note the many rarity changes.

Recently I spent an evening with an ardent half dime enthusiast who collects all half dimes by die marriage and die state. His enthusiasm for half dimes is tremendous, and if it were not for the fact that I increasingly need my beauty sleep, we probably would have witnessed the sunrise. He was elated that this census was finally going to be published. But he then proceeded to ask one pivotal question: "Why don't you publish the census listing the condition of all the die marriages like the **Gobrecht Journal**?" I was not prepared for this question and it was not until after I returned home that I comprehended the difference between the two censuses. Because both censuses are subjective (the owner grades his own coins) and the totals for each die marriage are included in both listings, the information is essentially the same. However, the difference is that one is a census of coins and the other is a census of collections. I would be interested in hearing from our members, especially those who already contribute to the census, how they view the merits of the two formats from both a contributing and an information standpoint.

At the JRCS meeting in Anaheim, John McCloskey discussed the progress of the new Bust Half Dime book. The descriptions for all the die marriages and the emission sequence have been established, but very little editing done. Progress is being made, albeit slowly.

The next census will be the Bust Dimes (1796-1837), to be published in Volume 10, Issue 3. Please send your census to P.O. Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030 in care of yours truly.

Oct-95

Based on 32 censuses submitted

		R#	006	329	003	015	326	323	432	002	066	012	169	694	001	359	230	PCS	AVG	MAX
1792	1	5	15	20													12	3	16	20
1794	1	6	20	20			12									30	20	5	20	30
	2	4	15	30												50		3	32	50
	3	5	50	40												20		3	37	50
	4	5	50	50												53	20	5	43	63
1795	1	6														50		1	50	50
	2	7	40	20			7									63	20	5	30	63
	3	7	12	35												60		3	36	60
	4	4	45	50	15											50	25	6	37	50
	5	3	50	45												53	12	4	40	53
	6	5	30	20												50	25	4	31	50
	7	7	30	20												40		3	30	40
	8	7	40	45												60		3	48	60
	9	7	20													20		2	20	20
	10	7	35															1	35	35
1796	1	4	40	55												50	20	4	41	55
	2	5	30	40												55	10	4	34	55
1797	1	6	30	15												40	25	4	28	40
	2	3	40	40												50	20	4	38	50
	3	4	6	20												55	12	5	23	60
	4	4	55	60												45	20	4	45	60
1800	1	3	45	45												50	25	4	41	50
	2	7	30	30			8					2				40	20	7	22	45
	3	7	20													50		2	35	50
	4	8														30		1	30	30
1801	1	4	40	30												60	25	4	39	60
	2	5	40	45												53	12	4	38	53
	3	6	20				8									4		3	11	20
1802	1	5		12												40		2	26	40

Oct-95

Based on 32 censuses submitted

	R#		006	329	003	015	326	323	432	002	066	012	169	694	001	359	230	PCS	AVG	MAX
1803	1	4	15	45												45	20	5	31	63
	2	3	30	45			8					5				55	25	6	28	55
	3	3	40	20												55	35	4	38	55
1805	1	4	12	30			4					10				45	30	6	22	45
1829	1	4	35	40	55	58	45	63	58	25	40		50	63	45			24	42	63
	2	1	45	50	45	40	58	61	50	40	45	55	50	15	55			23	41	61
	3	1	50	63	55	40	50	50	60	40	30	45	50	7	45			19	43	63
	4	3	50	63	50	50	50	50	45	40	25	45	45	8	60			18	41	63
	5	5	45		60	55	58	58	45	40	25		30	7				18	37	60
	6	1	50	62	55	50	45	50	50	25	15	40	45	15	50			21	40	62
	7	2	60	62	50	40	55	58	60	50	50	55	45	15	45			19	47	62
	8	4	35	45	45	55	7	30	55	40	10	12	35		50			16	31	55
	9	3	12		60	60	30	40	40	40	12		35		30			16	29	60
	10	5	15	55	50	40	20	40	30	40	45			30	45			14	33	55
	11	4	50		50	45	30	50	50	40	50			10	45			15	37	50
	12	1	60	60	50	50	45	55	50	40	45	35	40	12	25			23	44	60
	13	3	55		30	55	58	55	50	40	40	50			30			12	42	58
	14	2	55	60	55	58	45	50	50	40	25	12	45		40			17	43	60
	15	4	30		55	55	45	58	62	25	40		55		45			15	43	62
	16	5	15	63	50	45	35	30	45	40	40			12	40			15	39	63
	17	7			50	55		40	40		50							5	47	55
	18	7	40		20	40		20	55	45	45							7	38	55
1830	1	3	45	65	50	50	58	63	50	25	45	35	35	15	50			21	39	65
	2	2	45	60	50	55	40	50	62	25	10	30	55		45			17	44	62
	3	2	50	63	55	50	59	50	60	25	45	60	50	20				21	44	63
	4	6	20		55	45	45	25	55	25	8			4				12	33	55
	5	3	55	45	60	60	25	58	55	40	30		40	6				21	39	60
	6	1	60	64	50	45	25	50	50	25	8	45	50	25	40			20	38	64
	7	2	50	62	40	50	45	55	50	40	45	50	50	12	50			20	41	62
	8	2	40	45	55	40	50	50	55	40	60	45	45	20	45			20	45	60
	9	3	55	64	40	50	25	55	50	50	12	25	40	8	30			18	37	64
	10	3	60	64	50	45	63	45	58	40	40	45	45	3				18	42	64
	11	4	60	62	50	45	50	55	50	40	30	40		35				18	42	62
	12	7	20		40	30		15	50	63			30					8	35	63
	13	7	60		50	40	6	30			45							6	39	60

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Based on 32 censuses submitted

	R#		006	329	003	015	326	323	432	002	066	012	169	694	001	359	230	PCS	AVG	MAX
1831	1	1	60	63	50	55	59	55	55	25	25	40	55	12	40			23	40	63
	2	3	60	64	55	50	45	30	40	40	15	40	45	25				19	42	64
	3	3	60	60	50	60	45	45	40	50	45		25		45			14	45	60
	4	2	45	55	55	50	45	50	62	25	40	35		20	40			17	44	62
	5	1	60	55	45	40	50	50	50	40	45	50	45	15	30			22	42	60
	6	1	60	63	40	55	45	55	60	40	40	45	45	12	30			18	43	63
	7	2	45	62	50	40	45	50	55	40	40	40	40	15	40			18	40	62
1832	1	1	65	60	55	40	45	55	50	40	6	63	45	25	50			21	42	65
	2	2	50	60	50	45	58	50	50	40	25	50	40	25	40			24	40	60
	3	3	50	55	50	48	40	40	62	40	30	50	45	6	55			17	42	62
	4	5	40	63	40	30	58	45	40	50	10		40		40			14	37	63
	5	3	60	58	60	40	45	50	55	40	50	45	45		45			19	45	60
	6	3	55	40	55	50	20	50	50	40	50	20	45	10				18	39	55
	7	5	35		50	45	20	63	50	40	45	35		15				15	31	63
	8	1	60	64	60	45	50	50	40	50	12	40	50	8	40			22	41	64
	9	2	60	63	55	40	40	55	45	25	50	50	30	45	45			21	41	63
	10	4	50		40	40	40	30	50	40	63			20	55			15	35	63
	11	4	30		50	45	55	64	40	50	10		30	12	25			14	37	64
	12	3	60	63	50	55	30	50	60	40	50	40	40	8	50			17	46	63
	13	4	60	62	55	50	63	45	45	25	25	15			50			14	42	63
	14	7	40		40	60		4	62	45								6	42	62
1833	1	1	60	62	50	55	40	62	55	40	45	40	45	45	40			22	42	62
	2	4	40	45	40	45	58	50	30	40	4			15				14	38	58
	3	3	40	61	55	50	40	55	63	50	50		25	8				17	39	63
	4	2	65	63	60	50	55	63	55	25	12	30		20	30			18	44	65
	5	2	50	58	55	40	58	50	50	25	12	25	55	20	25			19	39	58
	6	1	60	55	40	45	55	62	55	40	55	50	45	20	40			21	43	62
	7	2	50	62	45	50	45	60	59	40	25	40	45	12				19	38	62
	8	6	50	63	45	50	8	15	30	25	50							11	37	63
	9	6	60		45	40		8	8	40								6	34	60
	10	8				55												1	55	55

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Based on 32 censuses submitted

	R#		006	329	003	015	326	323	432	002	066	012	169	694	001	359	230	PCS	AVG	MAX
1834	1	1	50	60	60	40	45	55	55	40	60	55	40	15	40			22	48	60
	2	3	60	60	45	55	20	50	45	40	8	10	45	40				16	37	60
	3	3	40	60	55	40	40	50	55	40	20		45	8	30			14	40	60
	4	1	60	64	40	40	45	62	58	40	25	50	45	8	30			23	41	64
	5	2	55	50	63	40	45	50	45	40	25	35	45	20	50			20	41	63
1835	1	3	50		40	55	20	45	50	40	12	60	45	10	50			19	36	60
	2	2	55	55	55	45	35	55	40	40	30	30	30	40	45			24	38	55
	3	1	60	63	45	40	50	50	50	40	50	40	45	12	40			22	38	63
	4	4	50	60	50	40	50	64	50	25	40		45	45				19	43	64
	5	1	50	55	60	50	50	55	50	40	12	45	45	20	30			22	43	60
	6	2	45	63	45	40	45	58	40	40	40	8	45		55			19	37	63
	7	1	63	60	60	45	50	55	55	45	50	63	45	20	45			24	45	63
	8	4	60		55	45	45	62	40	15	45		50	10	40			18	39	62
	9	1	60	60	50	50	35	62	45	40	25	30	30	20	30			20	37	62
	10	2	50	55	50	50	45	50	55	25	40	50	30	15	45			19	36	55
	11	2	50	50	40	45	40	55	60	25	40	25	45	20	40			21	40	60
1836	1	3	50	63	45	45	40	55	55	40	50	10	45	45				19	42	63
	2	2	55	60	45	50	35	55	50	25	10	40	40	25				22	33	60
	3	2	65	64	40	30	30	58	45	40	30	50	40	12	45			21	38	65
	4	1	50	63	45	40	55	55	50	40	50	40	40	12	55			23	42	63
	5	5	55		65	45	20	40	63	45	25	25						15	38	65
	6	1	63	55	50	50	50	55	55	25	30	45	35	45	50			22	42	63
	7	3	50	60	55	50	30	55	60	40	40	55		30	50			17	44	60
1837	1	1	50	63	50	63	45	55	58	25	12	50	45	30	45			23	38	63
	2	2	50	62	55	45	50	45	50	25	25	35	55	12	45			19	40	62
	3	1	45	50	55	40	45	55	55	40	10	45	40	8	40			22	37	55
	4	5	40		45	55	8	30	40	40	10	20	15		50			15	27	55
	5	6	35		25	40	4	8	15	50	30	50			45			12	28	50

Oct-95

Based on 32 censuses submitted

R#	006	329	003	015	326	323	432	002	066	012	169	694	001	359	230	PCS	AVG	MAX
OWNED	118	96	90	90	90	89	88	87	86	67	68	68	65	31	21	123		
AVG. GRADE	45	55	49	47	43	48	50	37	32	38	42	29	42	57	32	POSSIBLE VARIETIES		
R# 22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	0	0			
1	56	60	50	46	47	55	53	37	32	46	44	18	40	0	0			
R# 21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	19	18	18	0	0			
2	52	59	51	45	46	53	52	33	32	38	44	20	43	0	0			
R# 24	24	21	19	19	20	19	19	19	19	15	17	15	12	5	5			
3	49	54	50	51	37	50	52	41	33	36	41	15	44	53	23			
R# 19	19	14	12	11	12	11	11	11	11	4	6	8	8	8	7			
4	38	45	47	48	41	52	48	33	32	19	44	26	44	50	22			
R# 14	13	10	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	3	3	4	4	6	5			
5	35	41	51	45	31	44	45	42	29	27	28	16	44	45	16			
R# 8	7	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	1	0	1	1	4	2			
6	34	33	43	44	15	14	27	35	29	50	0	4	45	31	23			
R# 13	12	5	5	5	3	5	4	3	3	1	1	0	0	7	2			
7	32	30	40	45	7	22	52	51	47	2	30	0	0	48	20			
R# 2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0			
8	0	0	0	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0			

Capped Bust Half Dollar Secrets; The Stars

Edgar E. Souders

Have you ever noticed how in today's news media, information can be retold over and over again - with minimal apparent basis in fact? Similarly, it is not uncommon today to see something printed in a numismatic publication stating the same old retold story. While there is certainly nothing wrong with the telling of a good numismatic story, it is troublesome when past published errors become "etched in stone" as fact in the minds of many collectors.

Frequently the minting process of the star devices on Capped Bust Halves have been treated by writers in this manner. Researchers of the past, with few exceptions, have done little more than create confusion. In fact, much presently accepted research on this subject has been based on somewhat illogical 'guesstimations'. Apparently, few thought that much could be learned from something so simple as a star device. BUT it all depends on how one studies the evidence, namely the actual stars on the Capped Bust Halves themselves.

For several decades, numerous numismatic writers wrote and rewrote that the stars were punched into the working dies using a gang punch of stars. Most of them overlooked the fact that gang punches for the stars could not have been used for the same reason that complete date gang punches were also not used. The punches simply would not hold up. Rather, they would have broken up becoming worthless Mint tools of excessive expense. For this reason each numeral of the date was punched into the working die individually.

Nevertheless, many theories were still presented and published. These included the use of a double star punch, triple star punch, and even a complete 'left-side' punch (with seven stars) and 'right-side' punch (with six stars on it). Still another hypothesis, advanced by researcher Don Taxay in the early 1960's, encompassed a complete 13 star ring punch. Later, more thorough star examinations have proven all of these earlier theories to have been in error.

A definitive study on this subject was presented in 1973 by well known specialist/researcher Dr. Ivan Leaman. In his analysis, Dr. Leaman brought to the attention of the Bust Half Nut Club membership that he had found the conclusive answer to the star punching puzzle;

> "On coins before 1825 the naked eye can see the differences in star positions. After 1824 it is much more difficult except some where there are obvious differences mentioned by Overton.
>
> In my efforts in this direction, I made perhaps 30 transparencies with dots of paint at the center of each star - several of each year after 1824.

> The star positions on none of them matched . . . I also matched these against perhaps half the marriages from 1825 to 1836. None matched."

Dr. Leaman's transparency idea was brilliant, accurate and quite logical, and I imagine quite time consuming as well. (Thank You, Dr. Leaman, for this wonderful piece of work which substantiates that gang punches were not used in placing the star devices).

Several years later, in late 1980 or so, I acquired close-up photography equipment for the purpose of photographing halves to go along with my articles. During this time I produced many full size Capped Bust Half Dollar negatives of dozens and dozens of varieties. These were 'set distance' which produced identical size, full coin photographs. Using a see-through plastic grid I picked out obverse die negatives which looked close to matching in star placement. I then stacked the negatives, one above the other and projected the combined images on a wall with a projector. Only in one specific instance (to be discussed later) did any of the stacked images' star positions match. This slightly modified test method, once again, substantiated Dr. Leaman's earlier findings.

Therefore, at this point in the study, I can state that a ring punch, or gang punch of stars were not used for the making of the Capped Bust Half Dollar working dies. The stars were simply punched in . . . one at a time.

Many things about the entire star punching process had intrigued me for more that twenty years. Because of this, I felt that if I were to really learn something more from the stars it would be necessary to employ the proper tools. At first, I frequently used my 30x hand-held microscope, but quickly found that more power was generally needed. For this task I converted a more powerful laboratory-type microscope (with oversize eyecup) using its lower settings of 50x, 75x and 100x. The addition of a small fiber optic lamp, with its pinpoint cold light source, enabled me to view small specific areas of individual star points. The only catch to this system was that I had to study halves that graded, at the very least, EF-40, with better representation from EF-45 and AU pieces. If you try this setup for yourself, keep in mind that you may have to change the direction of your light source in order to create minuscule shadowing thereby enabling you to clearly see a specific defect. When examining the half this close you cannot turn the specimen (as you can under lower magnification) because you will lose your bearings through the eyepiece. Instead move the light source.

For all star measurements I used an Edmund Scientific, 6x pocket comparator with measuring reticule (in mm). I also used my trusty computer to keep track of my measurements and other data. The computer also enabled me to create the illustrations for this study by hand scanning images and manipulating them with a graphics program. Finally, I offer the following hypothesis for your consideration.

Many collectors today believe that the star punch 'pattern' around the coin's perimeter was laid out on the working die with the use of a compass. One end of the compass was placed on the recessed center dot on Liberty's neck while the other end scribed a light line around the periphery, just in front of the dentils. (Personally, I have always felt that this scribeline was used more in the actual cutting of the dentils). Some high grade circulated and Mint State pieces (early state) occasionally show the light scribe line, in specific areas, before it was lapped or worn away in the striking process.

In measuring nearly two dozen different varieties from 1807 to 1817, where I had good visual center dot representation, I found that the distance from neck dot to any given star center was identical. This in itself is not surprising, given the use of a compass, but I did find it fascinating that this same measurement was used from year to year. This suggested a relatively strict Mint standard of measurement procedures. Seemingly very sensible to a point, if this were truly the case then how was the punch positioned along the scribeline? The stars appear too precisely spaced to have been simply eye-sighted. Additionally, if one takes into consideration the many device placement errors on dozens of varieties of Capped Bust Halves, then this random position punching theory soon loses merit. It seems that dialectics would dictate some sort of 'guide' being used in conjunction with the star punch. But of what type? Further, provided this were true, then what did the star punch and guide look like?

As far as the punch tip itself was concerned, it was relatively easy to envision as we have a 'copy' on the halves themselves. In the process of viewing several dozen different halves, I found I could even prove that the punch was singular in nature by examining the stars under 50x and 100x magnification. Often the stars show, on well struck pieces (on particular points), that sometimes the punch left minute marks within the confines of the star device (See illustration #1). These marks could then be traced from one star to the next. (Specimens chosen for this part of the study included 1810 O108, 1811 O111, 1826 O109, 1826 O110 and 1827 O106). Still, what of the star punch shaft's actual shape? Was it square, round, or some other shape?

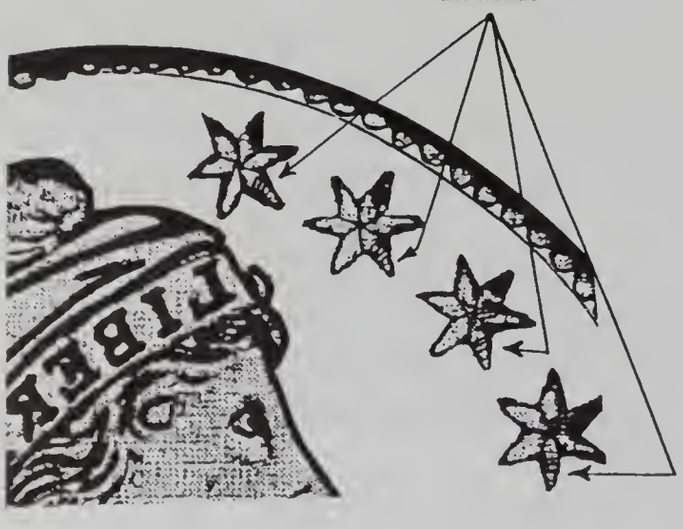

Illustration #1

Actually, the shaft shape could have been any one of the above mentioned styles but it would most likely have been somewhat rounded toward the very tip. Keep in mind that I am referring to the tip area immediately past or directly above the actual star device. The punches of 1807 were admittedly very crude but the void areas

(between star points) could easily have been removed through the use of a file for example . . . thereby creating the rough star on the end of the punch shaft. Following this step, the star punch tip could be further hand finished in more exacting detail.

The reason I believe this area to have been filed away completely is that I could find no evidence of a 'shoulder', from the field of the punch, showing up on the field of any struck halves. The shoulder of the star punch is the relatively rough area around the star device. Some refer to this area as the field of the star punch. It helps if you mentally picture yourself striking the punch with a mallet, say once or twice, thereby sinking the star device's design incuse into the face of the working die. Now, with this stage complete, imagine hitting the punch one more time so that the punch sinks past the intended depth. The resultant incuse 'marks' made on the working die field, from the shoulder of the punch, would then show up as raised lines completely around, or partially around, the individual star device. (I believe this effect can be seen on many dates and denominations of Liberty Seated coinage). I state that much thought was directed to the fact that this area would also be the first to be lapped in the finishing process, thereby eliminating most or all of the evidence. However, having studied over 80 different marriages in high grade (that is over 1000 different stars!), I felt that I should have been able to come up with a few cases where traces of the shoulder mark survived.

JRCS/BHNC member/researcher Leonard Schramm came up with a theory that the punch's shaft may have been curved on one side. (See Illustration #2). He stated that:

> The rounded side was butted against the scribeline and carefully moved around.
>
> The square right side of the punch was placed at the left side of the punched impression. This would give the spacing between stars. I feel this must be because the stars are always so close to perfect - as far as spacing and distance from the edge, while the letters (reverse), are near, far, high or low from the dentils. Ridges, flat radials and toolmarks, like tiny file marks on the radials tend to be in the same location time after time. When this theory is used in conjunction with the Leaman/ Gunnet emission sequence the results are amazing. The same marks can be seen on the same star point location die marriage after die marriage.

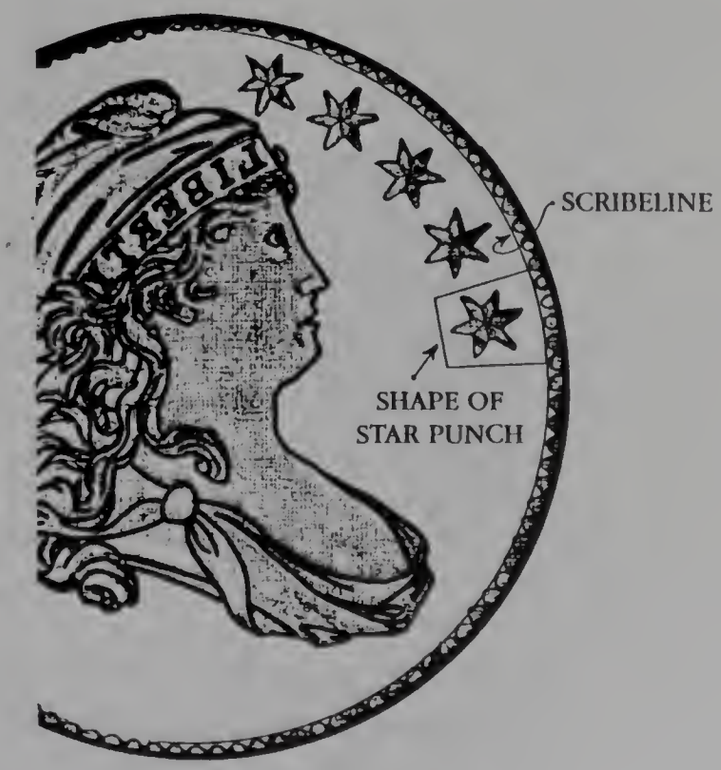

Illustration #2

Later this theory was refined to include the idea of using a metal ring over the working die with the punch being placed (curved side toward the ring) against the edge of the ring rather than the scribeline.

In examining this theory, we have earlier established, that trace characteristics of a particular star point were traceable, and often occurred from one star to the next. Also, there appeared to be no major rotation of the punch, almost as if the star punch was sunk, immediately moved, sunk again and continued effortlessly around until all stars were punched. The question is; Was this trait simply from a practiced steady hand, or did the hand have help from something else? A guide? Personally I felt that the supposed curved side of the punch would have been little curved to have worked sufficiently with the fitted ring. The arch of the curve would be too small to be significant. Besides this would do little as far as actual spacing of the stars would go as the punch would leave no mark on the working die for proper star spacing. Nevertheless, this line of thought, about a ring guide being used, got me thinking even more.

Simple technologies of the time period would indeed permit a steel ring to be made that would fit over the working die. If this were the case, then why not simply V-notch the ring so that the punch could be placed accurately from one V-notch to the next? Thinking about this idea for a couple of weeks, I now believe this theory to be closer to the truth. The star punch shaft could have been created with a pointed 'football' type shape. This way, one corner of the punch head would be set up against a V-notch on the ring (See Illustration #3). This would force the punch to always have a star point pointing directly towards the dentils, further strengthening this concept. In addition, this theory would go a long way in explaining why Reich's special scalloped trademark punch had the scalloped point facing the dentils, or reversed, with the scalloped point facing the curl, BUT NEVER POINTING IN ANY OTHER DIRECTION. This is true on all of the 82 Capped Bust Half Dollar obverse working dies created during Reich's tenure at the Mint, and could not have taken place if the star punches were curved on only one side.

Illustration #3

When placing the punch shaft in the ring guide notch there would still be room for a small amount of rotational movement of the punch shaft. If minutely twisted this would show up on the certain halves as the stars appearing slightly closer together. For example, on 1809 O101, S11 and S12 closer together, or 1819 O111, S1 and S2 are closer. Additionally, please keep in mind that the depth of the notch in the ring would also determine rotational movement to some degree.

Finally, the ring could be easily collared so that it could only fit on the working die in one particular way. This would eliminate the possibility of the ring being flipped and seven of the stars ending up on the wrong side of the working die. Along this line of thinking, concerning guides/jigs, there is some additional interesting data in the form of an existing record of purchase by the Mint. This warrant record comes to us from the "Expenditures of the First Mint of the United States Paid Out of the Annual Appropriations After March 4, 1793". Dated July 20th of 1793, the Mint paid one Jacob Craft the amount of $24.67 (no small amount in 1793) for "a punching machine for the die sinker". Could this machine have been something of the nature of the notched ring guide? Or perhaps something far more mechanically sophisticated. I am very open to this idea also. This could be the answer to the star placement puzzle as a punching machine, with hand fit parts, would account for the star accuracy.

Interestingly, Ron Landis the engraver of **The Gallery Mint Museum** (in Eureka Springs, Arkansas) recently showed JRCS Vice President, Brad Karoleff, a device he used to hold the punches in place (during his attempt at a recreation of some of our early Federal coinage). This device was used to insure proper placement of the small devices. He stated to Brad that it was similar to a staking set used in watchmaking and that the early Mint may have used a similar device to hold the punches. The working die is held in place and allowed to rotate on an axis. The stake holds the punch on a predetermined arch for punching. This, in his opinion, would explain the even placement on the arch from the center dot.

Is this the final definitive answer to the star positioning mystery? Unfortunately, I do not have the absolute factual answer concerning star punch placement. However, I feel that by discussing this guided punch theory, and the others, the general JRCS membership and other researchers may be further stimulated toward a continued discussion of the star punching process.

In reviewing all of the known available new data, as well as past information, I offer the following conclusions;

- The 13 six-point stars circling Liberty are meant to signify the 13 original Colonies of the United States. Seven of the stars having been aesthetically placed on the left side of the half dollar with the remaining six displayed on the right.

- The stars were punched in one at a time. No gang or ring punches were used.

- The Small Stars punch from the 1807 first year of issue (O113) measured 2 and 3/4 mm. The Large Stars punch for all other varieties of 1807 and 1808 measure 3 mm.

- 1809 - A new thinner shaped star punch was used and this punch served into the 1820's. (Although I could find no Mint (paper) evidence surviving that stated that a new punch was purchased).

- 1817 through 1820 - Many pieces show that the stars are closer to the dentilated border. For example, 1817, O107 Overton notes; "All stars large and close to milling" (dentils), or likewise 1819, O102, 1820, O106, etc. (Perhaps a new or slightly different size notched ring guide was employed by Robert Scot?). Later in 1821 (O103's) stars are just the opposite - distant from the dentils.

- 1824 - The extra large star on O113 (and O114) is the same star punch used for the other stars on this obverse. It was simply carelessly touched up.

- 1828 - Starting with O108 (and O109, Obverse 5), Overton refers to "medium large" stars. (I am not sure of this terminology as these stars appear to be from the same punch as the rest of the varieties).

- 1829 - The Capped Bust halves show the use of a new minutely smaller star punch.

- In 1831, there is some confusion. For O101 Overton states "stars are small" yet 1830's O123 (Large 0), with the same size stars is listed as "stars large and close to milling" (dentils). I believe they are from the same star punch.

- 1832 - Some varieties show 'medium' stars from a new punch (O101, O102, O103, O104 and O105, for example, and this may be the punch of 1829) while other varieties used a small stars punch (O106, O113, and O115 for example).

- 1834 - O101, O102, O103, O109 and O110 use a large star punch while O116, O114, and O113 (the Abominable Bastards) use a medium star punch. All others of 1834, 1835 and 1836 use a small star punch.

- The star device used for the edge inscription (1814 on) was much smaller and less detailed than the conventional stars used on the obverse working dies. It was likely engraved on the master edge bar die. This star served as a separator for the edge inscription between the words DOLLAR and FIFTY.

- Stars were often repunched, or recut, in an effort to minutely detail or otherwise improve appearance. The die was then lapped before being put into production. The results show today with stars showing evidence of extra points, lines, and other raised debris between the star points.

- From searching fragmented Mint records it is known that Henry Starr sold the Mint a new set of punches in 1824. Also, Charles Gobrecht was paid for punches on January 27, 1825. Richard Starr sold a set of letter and figure punches to the Mint on February, 24th of 1819. Presumably, these punch sets also contained a star punch.

- Earlier I mentioned that there may be an exception concerning star placement. I was referring to two varieties in 1834 that have the exact same star placement pattern. The Abominable Bastards, O114 and O113 may have had the stars punched into the old altered master die as an experiment (i.e. Bradley S. Karoleff's theory which he presented at the JRCS general membership meeting during the 1994 ANA in Detroit). This odd master then being used to raise a hub (complete with stars), and further used in the pressing of two working dies (O114 and O113). These working dies were then possibly repunched by experimenter Kneass (as the stars were not raised as planned) lapped, and then put into production.

- Reich used a special star punch for the 13th star on all obverse Capped Bust Half Dollar dies he created. He created this unusual punch by removing a small semi-circular cut-out on one of the star points. Applied to each of his obverse working dies, this tiny 'tell' became a fingerprint, of sorts, that today we have come to know as meaning . . . These dies created by Reich.

- Of the 82 obverse working dies created by Reich in (1807-17), 64 show the scalloped point pointing towards the dentils while only 18 show the scalloped point pointing towards the curl. It is my opinion that Reich may have done this to signify the change in design of 1809. All fifteen varieties of 1809 show the inward scalloped point, and oddly enough three marriages of 1810 (?). These were the 1810 O105, O108 and O110.

- Aside from the above mentioned punch size changes it is also necessary to understand several other star terminologies: "Star Weakness"; "Spindly Stars"; "Stretched Stars"; and "Star Distances" (from other devices). These terms are used to describe things about the stars that are directly related to the lapping process on the working dies, described as follows;

  Star weakness can occur from the grinding away of the field on the working die, minutely removing metal and shallowing out the overall depth of the star device. This weakness can also occur from a number of other reasons such as: Insufficient metal flow; an uneven planchet; or simply worn dies can cause this effect. Likewise, if a star was punched in at a slight angle, and then the die was lapped, the star device could appear weaker on one side than the other.

  Spindly stars (those thin, sharp pointed examples often seen on many Capped Bust halves of 1818) are attributable to extreme lapping of the working die. Remember, a star device is tapered, therefore, as the die is lapped the star becomes 'thinner' on the halves (just as the hair curl moves away from Liberty's headband). Extreme lapping causes the device cavity to shallow out, not only in depth, but in the width of each individual star point. The end result is the often beautiful spindly stars.

  Stretched stars are really related to worn unpolished dies and the force of impact on the flan. A planchet spreads concentrically at the micro second of die impact. At its outermost areas (stars obverse, legend letters reverse) the metal often appears stretched or 'bifurcated'.

  Star distances are variable factors based on the effects of lapping. Again, if you lap a working die, the tapered design of the hole (the star punch cavity) thins as you grind down the die field. This causes the struck stars on the halves to appear farther apart, and further from the dentils. Then too, if the die was lapped more heavily on one side than the other, the result can be seen on O114 of 1833 were Overton noted in his description; "Stars on left appear smaller and sharper than the ones on the right."

In closing, I would like to state that past published 'etched in stone' comments based solely on opinion, without some sort of logical testing, normally result in incorrect conclusions. As a humorous example of this I wish to leave you with an anecdote about a researcher conducting an experiment in which he teaches a frog to jump when it hears a certain sound. After each jump, our researcher cuts off one of the frog's legs and repeats the procedure. Once all the legs have been removed, the frog does not jump when the researcher prompts it with sound. The researcher concludes that frogs without legs cannot hear! This can exemplify how misleading conclusions can be if all of the available data is not examined, sensibly tested and thoroughly considered.

Bibliography and Sources

I would personally like to thank Phil Evans, Brad Karoleff, Ivan Leaman, Leonard Schramm, Craig Sholley and Tony Vigliotta for their helpful and welcome thoughts.

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Is There a Later Die State?

Dick Striley

Having retired a few years back, I dug in my old coin boxes and decided to try and attribute some of my old large cents, Bust Half Dimes and early dollars.

This was a new ball game for me.

I had bought quite a few catalogs to assist me in this endeavor, and with the recommendation from Jules Reiver, I joined the EAC, JRCS, and a few other clubs. I soon found out that the catalogs do not tell you everything. Without the help of the dedicated members of these associations, who contribute their knowledge and a helping hand, you could soon get discouraged.

I would like to thank Jules Reiver, James Spilman, David Davis, Bill Noyes, Tom Reynolds, John Wright and others who have made this experience much more informative and enjoyable for me.

Anyway, back to the question . . . Is their a later die state?

1799 B11d, BB-161

1799 B11d, BB-161

I found five 1799 Draped Bust Dollars, two I attributed to be B11a or Bowers' BB-161 with the heavy die break through the D in UNITED to the fourth feather of the wing.

The second B11 had a larger break and a number of additional minor die breaks. Under the eagles beak down to the ribbon and left to the eagles wing, the medal was on two levels, as if the die gave way in this small area.

None of my catalogs described this advanced die break as such, so I sent the coin to Jules Reiver to see if he had any information about this advanced die state.

With Jules' permission I have included his comments.

July 15,1994

Dear Dick,

Bolender was not aware of the fact that the reverse of B11 and B12 was the same as the B16 and B23 reverse.

I took your coins and mine with the same reverse die. Not paying any attention to previous notes, of which I have many, I listed them in apparent order of die progression. Here is a copy of what resulted. We really need more examples to study, so let us both keep our eyes open.

Your late example, which I call Bl1d, is the latest I have seen. As I said in the listing, the field is in two planes.

Yours,

Jules Reiver

1799 Dollar Reverse Die B16, B23, B12, B11

B16a (1) Left serif of U is broken, with most of its left side gone.
(2) A heavy bar just below top of stripe 4 extends to the right of that stripe.
(1) and (2) are present on all uses of this die.
(3) All 5 berries and stems are present, but berry2 is weak.
(4) A heavy clash mark is visible under clouds 4 and 5, and from cloud 7 through OF to right wing tip.

B16b (5) An additional clash mark has been added to (4).
(6) In addition to (3), berries 4 and 5 are weak.

B23a (7) From (6), berry 1 is strong, berries 3 and 4 are weak, and berries 2 and 5 are gone, but their stems remain.
(8) Clash marks (4) and (5) are lapped out, but a new clash mark appears in the tops of OF, and part of one in the bottom of F.

B23b Tiny remnants of clash marks (8) are left.
(9) Berries 1 and 3 are present, but weak. Stems 4 and 5 are weak but still visible.

B12a (10) All clash marks are lapped out.
(11) All berries are gone. Stems 1 and 3 are present but weak.

B11a (12) There is a new clash mark in top of F, different from (8), to right wing tip.
(13) A heavy crack goes from the rim, right of D, to the 4th feather from the top of the left wing, with a heavy spur to the center of the right side of D.
(14) A fine crack goes from the right bottom of D to the left end of the scroll.

B11a, BB-161

Note the forking die crack at the right tip of D in UNITED. The upper fork will continue across the eagle's lower beak in later states.

B11b Like B11a, plus
(15) A crack from the left wing over left side of R2 to the top left point of star 12.
(16) There is a faint crack through UNIT.

B11c Like B11b, plus
All cracks are heavier.
(17) Crack (15) is very heavy, and extends through star 12, and forms a lump under the lower beak.
(18) A faint crack runs from the upper point of star 12 to star 7 to cloud 2.
(19) A faint crack runs from crack 13 through the top 3 feathers of the left wing to cloud 1.
(20) Crack (16) now runs from the arrow feathers through UNITE to the rim over D.
(21) There is a faint crack from the spur in crack (13) down through the right side of D, across the left ribbon of the scroll, the tips of the feathers of the left wing, to the second stripe of the shield.

B11d Like B11c, plus all cracks are heavier.
(22) Cracks (13) and (15) are very heavy, and the field of the coin above them is on a higher plane than the field below the cracks.
(23) A faint crack runs from the rim over Al runs down through TE and cloud 5.
(24) Another faint crack goes from top of S2 to 0

If anyone out there has any knowledge or additional information on a later die state it would be gratefully appreciated. Please contact me at: Dick Striley, 7691 El Monte Drive, Buena Park, CA 90620

Photographs courtesy of Tom Mulvaney.

B11d, BB-161

Note the die lumps at D in UNITED and below the die crack at eagle's lower beak. The part of the die between the left wing and neck has fallen away leaving that part of the die on a lower plane.

Bust Half Fever: A Review

Russell J. Logan

Do you have 'Bust Half fever'? Chances are that after reading Edgar Souders' new book (of the same title) on Bust Half Dollars, you will have contracted this disease. It is characterized by an absorption in the ambiance of center dots, filled letters, incuse lines, scalloped stars, clashed dies, double profiles, weak strikes, lapped dies and bogus Bust Half Dollars. The history of the coins, the people, the machinery, the methods of die engraving, the tools, the steels to make the dies, the machinery to make the planchets and strike the coins, and the pioneer collectors who chased the coins are all fragments in history that makes this book a must for your library. This readable book informs and entertains the collector, and should win friends to continue the hobby into the next century.

Edgar's presentation is the key to this book's success. Its caviar is found within the paragraphs labeled "OTHER REMARKS" at the end of each year date chapter. In discussing some facet of a particular die marriage minted during that year, Edgar expounds on the many theories and secrets of Bust Halves. It may appear to the novice to be an awkward way of presenting this material, because it is totally random, but the index enables the reader to promptly locate a particular subject. However, one might wonder how anyone could fill 300 pages on Bust Halves without frequently citing Overton numbers or having a photograph on every page. But Edgar's writing style describes the joys and tribulations of collecting Bust Half Dollars, and is vastly superior to that in most other contemporary numismatic books.

Although some of Edgar's observations are not shared by all Bust Half Nut enthusiasts, he does state the reasons for his hypotheses. And for past or potential authors who contribute to this **JR Journal**, Edgar has supplied many years' worth of subjects for articles and discussions. For instance, Edgar describes each working die punch as being incomplete (pg. 151), and then the working die being touched-up (i.e. serifs added; uprights strengthened) but he then accepts that other punches were consistently defective and not touched-up later (I's, see page 125); (A's, see page 159). The forthcoming articles and discussions that can be generated from this book are infinite.

If you presently own 400+ different Capped Bust Half die marriages, you perhaps could have written this book yourself. But if you are like the typical Red Book collector, or are struggling with Overton (we all did at one time), you may contract the "Fever" and will then participate in the epidemic of feverously collecting Bust Half Dollars after reading this book! Our price for a hardbound edition is $50 ($60 retail) and a signed copy is $60 ($75 retail).
Bust Half Fever 1807-1836 may be ordered directly from the publisher:
Money Tree Press Inc., 1260 Smith Court, Rocky River, Ohio 44116. Please be sure to include your JRCS membership number when ordering. Prices are postpaid.

John Reich Collectors Society
P.O. Box 205
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Statement of cash receipts and disbursements for
12 month period ending 30-Sep-95

Cash Position On 01-Oct-94		
Checking Account	$3,561.65	
Life Membership Account	6,125.00	
On Hand	0.00	
	Total	$9,686.65
Income		
Back Issues & Donations	$1,048.50	
Interest	293.89	
Dues	7,252.00	
Life Membership	0.00	
	Total Income	$8,594.39
Expenses		
Supplies	$ 118.25	
Journal	4,179.95	
Postage	2,099.66	
Miscellaneous	138.00	
	Total Expenses	$6,535.86
Cash Position On 30-Sep-95		
Checking Account	$5,620.18	
Life Membership Account	6,125.00	
On Hand	0.00	
	Balance	$11,745.18


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